

Performance Evaluation Fact Sheet

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS - AVERAGE DAILY POPULATIONS OF SECURE ASSISTED LIVING BEDS, ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR 120 SECURE PRISON BEDS

ISSUE STATEMENT

The legislature in SJR 26 recommended that the Legislative Finance Committee monitor the average daily population of secure assisted living beds of the Department of Corrections

HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF PROGRAM OR ITEM

During an October 12, 2011 meeting between the Board of Pardons and Parole and the Department of Corrections it was identified that there were 46 Montana State Prison special needs offenders that could be classified as being nursing home eligible.

Inmates in secure facilities classified as assisted living inmates need significant staff time to take care of personal hygiene needs due to either health or lower cognitive abilities. These inmates typically reside in a in single or individual housing setting where doubling could free up beds and reduce pressures on capacity.

The legislature approved nearly \$3.0 million beginning in FY 2013 to add 120 beds in order to address projected secure care population growth. Of these 120 beds, 20 were designated as secure assisted living beds. A request for proposal was issued in early 2012, but was withdrawn when average daily populations projections did not support the growth anticipated in the 2013 biennium budget request.

CURRENT STATUS

The current population of secure assisted living inmates remains at 46 at the Montana State Prison. The department is working on a project in partnership with the Department of Public Health and Human Services to house 25 of these secure assisted living inmates in a portion of the Montana Mental Health Nursing Care Center in Lewistown. The inmates selected to be moved to the nursing care center in Lewistown are low-security offenders with an array of serious physical infirmities. About half are in wheel chairs and many are confined to a bed, need help walking, or require constant attention to prevent falls. Many have impaired sight or hearing. Many have multiple, chronic medical issues such as dementia, heart disease, diabetes, pulmonary disease, or cancer. The following approximate timeline highlights the steps of the project in FY 2013:

- July 1 – renovation contractor hired
- July 15 – renovation work begins
- October 1 – staff recruitment begins
- December 1 – renovation work complete
- December 15 – program begins operating

POTENTIAL OPTIONS OR DECISION POINTS

There are no specific decisions associated with this item as it is provided to inform the committee of how many offenders occupying secure care assisted living beds are under the supervision of the department. Legislative staff will

continue to monitor trends in this population of offender along with overall average daily offender population to address the impacts in the Legislative Budget Analysis 2015 Biennium.